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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(5)

5 October 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary: Enemy elements throughout South Korea have lost all organizational cohesion as individual units and are attempting to hide in the hills during the day and withdraw to the north by any possible route by night. The elimination of these enemy pockets continued, but enemy forces attempting to regroup near the 38th parallel for the defense of North Korea were given a respite as UN ground forces consolidated their positions and bad weather restricted UN air operations. ROK forces pushed along the east coast road, however, and advanced against negligible opposition to a position about ten miles north of Kosong.

Ground Intelligence

Enemy troop concentrations with tanks and artillery are reported in the 38th parallel area astride the main roads running north and northwest of Seoul into North Korea. Within South Korea, however, enemy remnants appear to have lost all organizational cohesion and are attempting to withdraw to the north by small trails at night. The ROK 3rd Division, followed by the ROK Capital Division, has advanced another ten miles from Kosong on the east coast road leading to Wonsan.

Navy

UN naval vessels patrolled both the east and west coasts of Korea but reported no unusual enemy activity.

Air

Bad weather restricted UN air operations, but bombers were able to make visual strikes against North Korean marshalling yards, bridges, and military training camps. In the Hungnam area, seven enemy tanks moving on the road were destroyed by UN aircraft.

II. General Situation

US Ambassador Muccio reports from Seoul that the general populace appears most happy to be relieved of the Communist occupation and that

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even the Korean national police (who were feared and disliked before the war) received widespread and continuous applause when they returned to Seoul and paraded through the streets on 1 October. Apparently most Communists and Communist sympathizers left Seoul with the North Korean Army, which also forced many hostages to accompany the retreat.

ECA officials report from Seoul that preliminary surveys indicate major industries in Seoul are largely destroyed or burned out. Of the 150,000 spindles in the Seoul area, only 3,200 appear to be intact with two large textile mills totally destroyed and two others largely destroyed. The people of Seoul are hungry and will require immediate imports of food to sustain them at least until December when the 1950 rice crop, which appears adequate, should be available for distribution.

R. H. HILLENKOSTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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